

State Representative Anne L. Ruwet

Dear Friends,

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as your state representative. Your comments, telephone calls and conversations have been important as I considered voting on specific legislation. This advocacy is valuable.

Enclosed is an update on some of the major issues that were addressed during the 2006 session. I am happy to report continued progress toward a new Litchfield County courthouse in Torrington, as well as state cooperation toward downtown revitalization.

As always, I look forward to assisting with any state related or consumer issues that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your comments, suggestions or concerns.

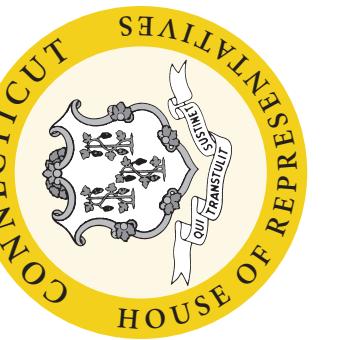
I wish everyone in Torrington a wonderful and safe summer season.

Sincerely,



Representative Ruwet, Governor M. Jodi Rell and Congresswoman Nancy Johnson met at the Capitol to discuss issues facing Torrington.

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State Representative

ANNE L. RUWET

Proudly Serving the 65th District

Torrington ★ Connecticut



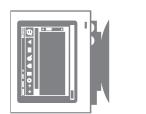
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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
ANNE L. RUWET
Proudly Serving the 65th District
Torrington ★ Connecticut



Representative Ruwet works on the details of bills being considered by the state House of Representatives during a legislative session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

As in past years, I am working hard for taxpayers, children, families and senior citizens. I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help families save for college education, and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at www.housegop.ct.gov. Following are some of the highlights on key issues:

FOR TORRINGTON

Litchfield County Courthouse

Significant progress was made this year toward building a new Litchfield County Courthouse in Torrington. The state Department of Public Works is moving ahead on schedule and is working to expedite the process.

A cooperative effort continues toward revitalizing Torrington's downtown area, involving state and local officials, the state Department of Economic and Community Development and other agencies and organizations.

Jobs for the 21st Century Legislation

Connecticut continues to lag behind the nation in new jobs and economic growth. As a priority issue for Torrington jobs, the property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out. Also, Connecticut will become more attractive for job creation, as the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year is eliminated. Tax credits will encourage companies to hire new employees and to produce movies in Connecticut.

Education

I continued the fight for full funding of local public school aid under the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. I sought to eliminate a cap on aid to Torrington schools, as a commission looks to revise the formula that allocates aid to cities and towns. Some state school aid increases were approved, but at less than full funding. State aid to Torrington will increase over \$900,000 this year.

Higher Education

Good news is that families can now take a state income tax deduction when they save up to \$10,000 for a child's education in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). New legislation will encourage innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, funds for small business incubators, and programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment grants for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with the design and manufacture of extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices.

For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. To keep seniors safe, I supported a bill requiring homemaker-companion agencies to register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees to undergo background checks. Also, legislation will protect the jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

For Children

I continue to address issues relating to after-school programs, adoptions, foster care and sexual predators who prey on children. For foster parents, the legislature allowed parents to take family and medical leave to allow time at home with their foster children. A \$5 million initiative is included in the state budget to expand after-school programs for children in need. With input from local school officials, I could not support a measure imposing state regulations on food and beverages in public schools. Parents and school board members are best equipped to make these decisions.

For Teachers

For years, I have supported full funding of teachers pension to help meet a \$5 billion unfunded liability in the Teachers' Retirement System. The legislature agreed to \$245.7 million in the current budget, with no guarantee of full funding in the future.

For the Environment

Under a Clean Car bill that I supported, the state will establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models. New legislation will require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

State Budget

I supported adjustments to the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The budget provides \$85.5 million to pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis, \$33 million in property tax relief to the towns and \$189 million saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns.

Grants to towns increase by \$115.5 million to \$2.557 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. Aid for special education students goes up by \$35 million. Taxpayers can take a property tax credit of up to \$500 when filing 2006 state income returns, up from \$400. A \$1-million program for adults with autism also is authorized. I supported Gov. Rell's proposal to eliminate the annual car tax, which was not enacted by the majority.



Representative Ruwet greets members of the Torrington Junior ROTC at the State Capitol in Hartford.

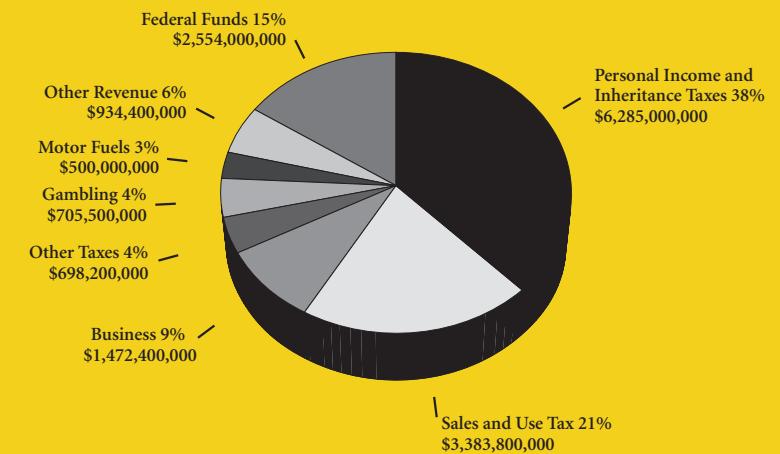


Representative Ruwet speaks during a debate on the floor of the state House of Representatives.

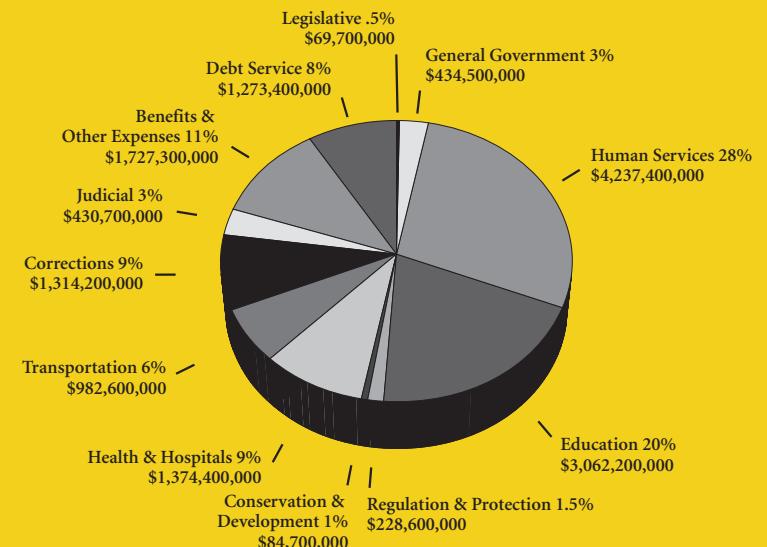
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.